

Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2022

Online Microsoft Team meeting

Board Members Present

Lea Anne Burke
Don Tillman
Joshua Misenaar

Others Present

Geraldine Saw – Coordinator
Kit Crump – SWM Supervisor
Adam Jackson – SWM Watershed Steward
Scott Moore - public

Introductions

A round of introductions made.

Approval of agenda

Approval of minutes from February 2022

Don made the motion to approve the February 2022 meeting minutes. Josh seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Coordinators Report

Gerry gave a power point presentation of her report. She reported of the last field tour at the Little Bear Creek advance mitigation site. We helped treat the site for weeds for three years before planting is done. Seven seasonals were hired this year, which was more than was needed. Gerry arranged for the seasonals to work for Road Maintenance when the weed projects did not need the labor surplus. The seasonals were rerouted to work for Road Maintenance a month before the season ended because of an unexpected event.

We focused treatment on priority species such as, giant hogweed. Crews also sprayed tansy ragwort, poison hemlock and knotweed along the roadside. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided a boat and boat driver to treat garden loosestrife along the Snohomish River from the King-Snohomish County border to Everett. We also treated Spartina in Stanwood and Everett. We collaborated Spartina treatment with the Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA), DNR, the Nature Conservancy, the Stillaguamish, and Tulalip Tribe. DNR provided a Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew for knotweed control in the Pilchuck and the South Fork Skykomish River areas. The WCC crew were a big help, especially in the South Fork Skykomish area where there was an abundance of knotweed. Gerry met with some concerned landowners, along the South Fork Skykomish River, who showed her the knotweed locations. Another crew was scheduled to work in September but were rerouted to other

locations when the Bolt Creek Fire started in Skykomish. The air quality was the primary concern. The WCC crew also provided assistance with the knotweed control effort in the Pilchuck River. Efforts continued for knotweed control along the Stillaguamish River using the Salmon Recovery Fund and the WSDA knotweed grant. Approximately \$100,000 is left from the Salmon Recovery Funding for knotweed control and tree planting, and the grant ends in December 2023.

For public outreach, educational booths were set up for several events, such as the Evergreen State Fair, Solticulture, Rainscaping Expo and the Return of the Salmon. Approximately 1,657 visitors visited the booth at the Evergreen State Fair. The free native flower seed packets were popular. In October, Gerry gave a weed identification class organized by Forterra for their volunteers. The volunteers remove invasive weeds for Forterra events. For the next several months, Gerry plans to begin moving the office, perform winter survey, data entry and produce reports.

Old Business

Transfer to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Talks are still in progress to search for another office location for the program. It will most likely be at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds. Gerry has spoken to the SWM management about the operation budget. Kit is aware of and will be working on reclassifying Gerry's and the technician's position as well as how SWM funding can support the program. Scott mentioned that SWM funding is restricted to use within unincorporated areas in the county, but noxious weeds grow everywhere.

New Business

Assessment

Gerry mentioned an assessment to fund the noxious weed program was discussed the last informal meeting in June. She had prepared a draft letter to the council of an assessment proposal. A public hearing needs to be held before presenting the proposal to the council. Scott advised to inform upper management to anticipate the letter before it is sent out. Kit added that the message should start with the Council and Executive aids. Lea Anne and Scott recommended that we familiarize the Council and Executive of the Noxious Weed Board and what the program does. Annual reports with pie charts and maps of the accomplishments and what can be done better with more money would help. Kit added that the timing when to request for funding is an important factor. Lea Anne said that the transfer to DCNR will make the program more visible.

Next Meeting Planning and Agenda

Discussion of when everybody can meet ensued. Due to member's work schedules, the meetings for next year will be held on Fridays. Gerry will send out the 2023 meeting schedule.

Don made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Josh seconded the motion.

Adjourned at 10:30am

Respectfully submitted by: Geraldine Saw

DRAFT